

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 13-23 were previously pending in the application. Claims 14 and 21-23 are cancelled, leaving claims 13 and 15-20 for consideration.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 21 is allowable. In reliance thereon, independent claim 13 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 21.

Cancelling claim 14 renders moot the rejection of claim 14 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Amending claim 13 to include the subject matter of claim 21 and cancelling claims 22 and 23 obviates the rejection over WATANABE et al. 6,035,667 in view of TANAE et al. 5,326,039.

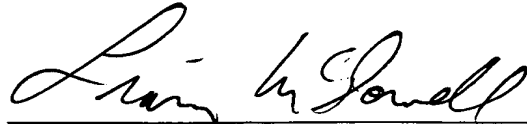
Since the claims remaining in the application are indicated as allowable or depend from an allowable claim and as there are no outstanding formal matters, the application is in condition for allowance. An early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liam McDowell", is written over a horizontal line.

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